

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 05898 040954Z

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-06 DHA-02 PRS-01 /013 W

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R 040831Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1859

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STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM KS

SUBJECT: UNION BOARD'S INVITATION TO DR. PARK TAE-SON

REF: STATE 171204

1. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PREDICT WHETHER OR NOT DR. PARK WILL HAVE DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING A PASSPORT IN ORDER TO ACCEPT AN INVITATION FROM THE UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY TO SPEND A TERM AS VISITING SCHOLAR IN OLD TESTAMENT STUDIES. DR. PARK WAS FORCED TO RESIGN AS PRESIDENT OF YONSEI UNIVERSITY A FEW MONTHS AGO BECAUSE HE STEADFASTLY INSISTED ON REINSTATING STUDENTS AND FACULTY MEMBERS WHO HAD BEEN ARRESTED UNDER THE EMERGENCY MEASURES. THUS, HE IS IN DISFAVOR WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND PASSPORT MAY BE DENIED TO HIM. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT MAY BE THAT HIS RESIGNATION SATISFIED WHATEVER PUNITIVE REQUIREMENTS WERE CALLED FOR AND IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT HE IS AN ELDER KOREAN SCHOLAR A PASSPORT WILL BE ISSUED.

2. WE BELIEVE FACT THAT DR. PARK'S INVITATION IS COMING FROM WORLD REKNOWNED UNION SEMINARY WILL HAVE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON DECISION MAKING PROCESS CONCERNING PASSPORT ISSUANCE. SHOULD HIS APPLICATION BE DENIED HOWEVER WE WOULD BE WILLING TO RAISE CASE INFORMALLY WITH MOFA.
ERICSON

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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